

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET
REPS ON JANUARY 17, 1974

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

TEXT FOLLOWS OF REPORT US REP CIRCULATED TO NATO AD
HOC GROUP ON 17 JANUARY COVERING THAT MORNING'S BI-
LATERAL DISCUSSION HE AND US DEPREP HAD WITH SOVIET
REP AND SOV DEL OFF KVITSINSKIY.

EGIN TEXT.

1. I WAS ADVISED YESTERDAY EVENING BY AMBASSADOR ADRIAENSSEN
THAT AMBASSADOR STRULAK HAD OFFICIALLY REQUESTED TWO PLENARIES

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FOR NEXT WEEK. ACCORDINGLY, IT SEEMED ADVISABLE TO DISCUSS

THE WEST'S VIEWPOINT ON FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES DIRECTLY WITH KHLESTOV BEFORE A TWO-PER-WEEK PLENARY PATTERN WAS ESTABLISHED PUBLICLY BY ANNOUNCEMENT AT TODAY'S PLENARY. MR. DEAN AND I CALLED ON AMBASSADOR KHLESTOV THIS MORNING.

2. I OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT WE WISHED TO DISCUSS THE FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES. I REFERRED TO KHLESTOV'S DECEMBER SUGGESTION THAT AFTER THE RECESS WE MIGHT CONSIDER SUPPLEMENTING THE PLENARIES WITH SOME OTHER FORM OF DISCUSSION SO AS TO DEVELOP A MORE PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE. I ALSO REFERRED TO HIS RECENT DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR QUARLES WHERE HE HAD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE STARTED TO SUPPLEMENT THE PLENARIES. I SAID THAT THE WESTERN DELEGATIONS AGREED WITH THIS GENERAL APPROACH AND ALSO WERE OF THE VIEW THAT THE MOST PRODUCTIVE COURSE WOULD BE TO HAVE ONE PLENARY A WEEK FOR THREE WEEKS AND THEN SHIFT TO A SCHEDULE OF ONE EVERY TWO WEEKS. THIS, IT WAS FELT, WOULD GIVE TIME FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PLENARIES AND FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATION OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS. I SAID THAT WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING HIS VIEWS.

3. KHLESTOV REPLIED FIRST WITH A REPETITION OF THE POSITION HE HAD TAKEN WITH AMBASSADOR QUARLES. HE SAID PLENARIES SHOULD BE CONTINUED. HE SAID HE WAS OPPOSED TO OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUPS AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE THE SAME DISADVANTAGES AS PLENARIES AT THIS STAGE. HE REFERRED TO THE USE IN LAST SPRING OF EMISSARY MEETINGS. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED A RELUCTANCE TO FORMALIZE THE EMISSARY SYSTEM. HE SAID HE PREFERRED A SYSTEM OF LUNCHEON AND DINNER GATHERINGS WITH PERHAPS A ROTATING MEMBERSHIP.

4. I THEN SAID THAT WE HAD NOT COME TO DISCUSS THE FORM OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BUT WERE INTERESTED IN HIS VIEWS ON THE FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES.

5. HE SAID THAT THE EASTERN DELEGATIONS HAD MET ON THEIR RETURN AND THAT THE OTHER EASTERN DELEGATIONS HAD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE PLENARIES SHOULD CONTINUE AT THE SAME FREQUENCY AS IN THE FALL. HE SAID THAT FOUR OF THE DELEGATIONS WERE READY TO SPEAK AND THAT THEY HAD ALREADY DETERMINED THE ORDER

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OF SPEAKERS.

6. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE OTHER DELEGATES FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GIVE THE PUBLIC, THE PRESS, AND CAPITALS THE APPEARANCE OF CONTINUED HARD WORK. ACCORDINGLY, THEY HAD AGREED THAT THE PLENARIES SHOULD BE HELD AT THE RATE OF TWO PER WEEK.

7. WE SUGGESTED THAT MORE THAN ONE SPEAKER FROM EACH SIDE COULD SPEAK AT A PARTICULAR PLENARY, AND STATED THAT WE THOUGHT WE COULD EXPLAIN TO OUR PRESS THAT A REDUCED FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES WAS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH A CONTINUED STEADY PACE OF NEGOTIATION. WE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESS MIGHT NOT BE DECEIVED BY PLENARIES WHICH WERE IN FACT NON-PRODUCTIVE. WE ADDED THAT THE PREPARATION OF TWO PLENARIES A WEEK MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN THAT IT WOULD INTERFERE WITH THE ADEQUATE PREPARATION AND CONDUCT OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS.

8. A FURTHER GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT ENSUED, BUT KHLESTOV FIRMLY ADHERED TO THE POSTION THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE MEETING OF EASTERN DELEGATIONS TO INSIST ON TWO PLENARIES PER WEEK FOR THE TIME BEING. HE ALSO DEPRECATED THE TIME REQUIRED TO PREPARE FOR PLENARIES. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD NOT ALL WESTERN DELEGATES WISHED TO SHIFT FROM THE TWO PER WEEK SCHEDULE. WE SAID THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, THE WEST HAD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED ON THE SHIFT.

9. WE NOTED THAT WE VISUALIZED NEXT PERIOD AS ONE IN WHICH, IN ADDITION TO PLENARIES, BOTH SIDES WOULD CARRY OUT EXTENSIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF DETAILS OF EACH OTHER'S POSTION. THIS PROCESS HAD NOT YET TAKEN PLACE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WAS A NECESSARY STEP TWOARD PROGRESS IN THEM. TO CARRY IT OUT AND PREPARE FOR IT ADEQUATELY, TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED. THIS WAS WHY TWO PLENARIES WEEKLY WERE NOT USEFUL IF BOTH SIDES HAD SERIOUS INTENT OF EXPLORING EACH OTEHER'S POSITION.

10. WE STATED THAT WE THOUGHT THAT IF TWO PLENARIES PER WEEK WERE HELD, THE WEST WOULD PROBABLY DECIDE TO MAKE A PRESENTATION AT ONLY ONE OF THE TWO PLENARIES. WE REMINDED THEM THAT KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOSKY HAD ORIGINALLY OPPOSED TWO PLENARIES PER WEEK AS TOO FREQUENT.

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11. KHLESTOV DID, AT THE END, INDICATE THAT HE WOULD REVIEW THE MATTER AGAIN AT A MEETING OF EASTERN DELEGATES. KVITSINSKIY GAVE SOME INDICATION THAT THE EAST MIGHT WISH TO DEFER REDUCING THE FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES UNTIL IT SAW PROGRESS DEVELOP IN THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. KVITSINSKIY SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT A REDUCTION IN PLENARIES TO MAKE WAY FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION MIGHT IMPLY PROGRESS WHICH DID NOT EXIST AND THAT IF A DEADLOCK WAS REACHED IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION, IT MIGHT BE AWKWARD TO SHIFT BACK TO MORE FREQUENT PLENARIES.

12. AFTER THE PLENARY SESSION THIS MORNING, KHLESTOV CONFIRMED THAT THE EAST WOULD REVIEW THE QUESTION AGAIN.

END TEXT. HUMES

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